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IO-00 L-00 DCP-01 OIC-02 DHS-00 OPIC-01 PA-00  
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P 101057Z SEP 03  
FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9426  
INFO AMCONSUL SURABAYA

UNCLAS JAKARTA 010424

STATE FOR EAP/P, EAP/PD, EAP/IET

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: KPAO, SCUL, ID  
SUBJECT: INDONESIAN FOREIGN PRESS CENTER TOUR REPORTS ON A/S  
KELLY INTERVIEW

1. FOLLOWING AN INTERVIEW WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY JAMES KELLY, INDONESIAN JOURNALISTS PARTICIPATING IN A STATE DEPARTMENT FOREIGN PRESS CENTER (FPC) TOUR PUBLISHED A HALF DOZEN STORIES IN MAJOR NATIONAL DAILIES WEDNESDAY, ALL BOLSTERING THE USG MESSAGE ON ANTI-TERRORISM AND SECURITY. THE STORIES EMPHASIZED CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND INDONESIA IN FIGHTING TERRORISM AND U.S. SUPPORT FOR INDONESIAN DEMOCRACY. THE 12-PERSON GROUP OF 10 NEWSPAPER JOURNALISTS AND ONE TELEVISION TEAM ARE TOURING WASHINGTON, D.C. AND NEW YORK CITY SEPTEMBER 6-14 IN A PROGRAM ON THE THEME OF "PERSPECTIVES ON POST 9/11 AMERICA." THE FIRST INTERVIEW OF THEIR VISIT WAS WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY KELLY. THEY ALSO INTERVIEWED UNDER SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY ASA HUTCHINSON AND ARE SCHEDULED TO INTERVIEW DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE PAUL WOLFOWITZ ON SEPTEMBER 10.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ARTICLES  
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2. INDONESIA'S LARGEST AND MOST INFLUENTIAL NEWSPAPER "KOMPAS" (CIRC. 500,000), REPORTED: KELLY SAID THE COOPERATION BETWEEN INDONESIA AND THE U.S. IN DEALING WITH TERRORISM HAS BEEN VERY GOOD. HE CITED THE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES IN DEALING WITH THE BALI AND MARRIOTT BOMBING ATTACKS. AS FOR THE HAMBALI CASE, "THE THAI GOVERNMENT HANDED HAMBALI OVER TO THE U.S.," HE SAID, EMPHASIZING THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF HIS ARREST IS THE PREVENTION OF FURTHER TERRORIST ACTIONS. "BUT IT IS A DIFFICULT PROCESS BECAUSE HE SURELY WILL BE RELUCTANT TO

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TELL ALL THAT HE KNOWS," HE SAID. "SO A SLOW, CAREFUL AND SYSTEMATIC PROCESS WILL BE THE ONLY METHOD USED," HE SAID. "BECAUSE THE FIRST PRIORITY IS TO PREVENT FURTHER ACTS, IT IS ALSO THE PRIORITY IN THE INTERROGATION PROCESS. WE KNOW THERE ARE THINGS THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT WANTS TO KNOW. WE PROMISE TO FIND THE ANSWERS AND WILL GIVE THEM AS SOON AS WE FIND THEM," HE SAID..."OUR TASK IS TO SUPPORT THE DEMOCRATIZATION PROCESS THAT ALLOWS THE JUDICIAL PROCESS TO TAKE PLACE. DURING SOEHARTO'S ADMINISTRATION, THE JUDICIAL PROCESS WAS NOT INDEPENDENT, SO IT WILL TAKE TIME TO CHANGE IT. I THINK WE ARE MORE INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING A RELATION IN THE BROADER CONTEXT," HE SAID.

3. "MEDIA INDONESIA" (CIRC. 160,000), ANOTHER MAJOR NATIONAL DAILY WITH A LARGE ISLAMIC READERSHIP, REPORTED, [KELLY SAID,] "COOPERATION BETWEEN THE U.S. AND INDONESIA IN PROGRAMS TO ERADICATE TERRORISM HAS GONE WELL." REGARDING THE VERDICT ON BA'ASYIR, WHICH MANY SEE AS NOT IN LINE WITH U.S WISHES, KELLY SAID WASHINGTON RESPECTS THE DECISION. "WE CANNOT INTERFERE IN THE PROSECUTORIAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES."

4. ANOTHER LEADING NATIONAL NEWSPAPER, "KORAN TEMPO," (CIRC. 170,000), REPORTED, "THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HIGHLY APPRECIATES THE LEGAL PROCESS CARRIED OUT IN INDONESIA," SAID JAMES KELLY...ASKED ABOUT THE VERDICT THAT BA'ASYIR WAS NOT THE LEADER OF JEMAAH ISLAMIAH AS WASHINGTON HAS INDICATED, KELLY SAID THE U.S. HAS NO AUTHORITY TO COMMENT ON THE INDONESIAN COURTS. "SOMETIMES THE INDONESIAN COURTS MAKE A DECISION THAT PLEASES THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, BUT SOMETIMES THEY DON'T. THAT'S ALL RIGHT. OUR TASK IS TO SUPPORT THE DEMOCRATIZATION PROCESS...I THINK WHAT THE POLICE HAVE DONE IN HUNTING DOWN AND ARRESTING THE PERPETRATORS OF THE BALI BOMBING INDICATES THAT THE INDONESIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN WORKING VERY SERIOUSLY."

5. SURABAYA'S "JAWA POS," (CIRC. 350,000) THE NATION'S SECOND LARGEST NEWSPAPER, REPORTED, "OUR COOPERATION WITH INDONESIA IS VERY GOOD. MAYBE BECAUSE OF THAT GOOD COOPERATION, HAMBALI WAS FORCED TO HIDE IN THAILAND," KELLY SAID.  
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